

a young entrepreneur can still start with \$5,000 in his garage and begin a company that grows into a huge organization like Microsoft.

Only in America can that still happen.

Unfortunately, only in America do we find a Federal Government that is so opposed to this entrepreneurial spirit. Why, the Justice Department has been hammering against Microsoft over the past months and years, because Microsoft works. Just like capital gains taxes continue to go up, because these people who are the most productive are the ones that our Federal Government punishes.

My gosh, ask anybody in Seattle, Washington what this little start-up company that started with 2 men and \$5,000 in a garage has meant to the economy, not only of the Pacific Northwest, not only of America, but of the world. And yet all they get is harassment from the Federal Government and a Justice Department that should be spending more time looking at how the Chinese influenced the 1996 presidential elections than how one or two young men's dreams created a company and a force that has literally changed western civilization and eastern civilization.

But only in America. Only in America do we say to people that dare to go out and work hard, if you work hard, we are going to tax you hard. And if you work harder, and if you create more jobs and more opportunity and more wealth and more hope for all Americans, we are going to punish you more. You are going to pay more in capital gains taxes. And heaven forbid, if you are a mother and a father that starts a mom and pop store, or own a farm, you get your hands down in the dirt everyday and work hard every single day of your adult life, with the hopes of one day passing this dream on to your children, in America we say, good for you, just do not die. Because when you die, we are going to tax you 55 percent on all of your property, on all of your property that we have already taxed 8 or 9 times while you were alive, and we will make it impossible for your children to take your family business and to take your family farm and to support themselves and to support their children.

That does not make sense. The death tax does not make sense, Mr. Speaker. The capital gains tax that punishes creativity and punishes job growth does not make sense. Mr. Speaker, something else that does not make sense is a tax system that makes middle class American families making between \$40,000 and \$60,000 pay 28 percent of their income to the Federal Government. I have no idea why we cannot move that bracket up to have people making from \$40,000 to \$65,000 pay in a tax bracket of 15 percent. How much money will be lost to the Federal Government that it cannot do without? How much money of hard-working Americans does the Federal Govern-

ment need to continue to grow its operations? How much more money are we going to raise in taxes from the sweat and the toil of middle class Americans?

Mr. Speaker, I hear the tired, worn-out arguments of class warfare every single week that I take to this House floor, and I know this. I know the simple truth of Abraham Lincoln that one cannot punish the wage-maker without hurting the wage-earner. But that is what our government does.

I also know that we cannot continue to allow this Federal Government to grow and grow and grow without destroying the economy. We have learned the lessons of 1995 and 1996 to find ourselves in 1999 with an exploding economy. Sure, cutting taxes helps the economy grow, but cutting government spending also helps the economy grow, and we have learned that lesson. And to hear people take to the floor from the extreme left talking about the spade of new government programs they want to start to help Americans makes one scratch one's head and wonder, where have they been the past 4 years? Because they had a chance for 40 years to balance the budget and they did not do it. They had their chance in 1995 to help conservatives balance the budget. They did not do it. They had the chance in 1996 to climb on board and help us balance the budget. They did not do it. And they have a chance in 1999 to help us stay on the road, to stay within the budget caps, to balance the budget. The question is, will they do it?

Mr. Speaker, I hope they will, but I have to say, the past 40 years does not offer us much hope.

Mr. Speaker, I recall coming here, being shown this wonderful House Chamber by a Member of the House, and he took out his voting card and it has a picture, the voting card has a picture on it and you slip it in the back of one of these seats and one's vote is automatically recorded. And he showed it to me and he says, Joe, this is our \$5 trillion credit card. And he laughed a little laugh, as did I.

Mr. Speaker, if we think about it, it is not really that funny, because that \$5 trillion, now \$5.4 trillion that this government has spent into the red is \$5.4 trillion that we borrowed from our children and from our children's children. We are now told that if we are responsible; in fact, the CBO, the Congressional Budget Office says if we do nothing but be responsible and live by the Balanced Budget Act, we will see the end of that \$5 trillion debt in the next 15 years.

Mr. Speaker, that is something worth fighting for. Certainly something that provides hope not only to my 2 boys in Pensacola, Florida, but to children across this country, to parents that hope for a better life, and for immigrants that come from other shores coming to America. That city that Ronald Reagan talked about shining brightly on the HILL for all the world to see, that is the hope. If only we in

this House and Members in the Senate and people in the administration understand that we gave our word in 1997 with the Balanced Budget Act, and now is not the time, nor is it the place, for us to break our word.

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If we spend one cent more than we promised to spend in 1997, that is one cent too much, because that is a violation of our word to the American people, and most importantly, to ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we in Washington can get by on less so Americans can get by with more. I believe, like Thomas Jefferson, that the government that governs least governs best. I believe, in the words of James Madison, that we have staked the entire future of the American civilization, not upon the power of government but upon the power of the American people.

It is time for us to renew our vow and our pledge, not only to the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, but to the vision and the wisdom and the courage of the George Washingtons and the Thomas Jeffersons and the Ben Franklins and the James Madisons, and to those great patriots that fought so fiercely for all Americans' liberties over 222 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, if we are true to our word and true to their memory, then I know that the next century will also be the next great American century.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 800, EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-46) on the resolution (H. Res. 100) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 800) to provide for education flexibility partnerships, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BILBRAY (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of personal reasons.

Mr. DIXON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today through March 11, on account of official travel.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of bad weather.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today through March 11, on account of official business.

Ms. SANCHEZ (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of official business.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of bad weather.